

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052049

FOLLOWING REPEAT KINSHASA SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRUSSELS,
PARIS, LAGOS, LUSAKA, USUN, SECDEFENSE, USCINSEUR 9 MAR.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2019

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, AO, CG
SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN CHIEF ZAMISH AND GENERAL BABIA ON
ANGOLAN ATTACK ON ZAIRE

REF: KINSHASA 1922

1. THE FOLLOWING IS FROM A MEETING BETWEEN CHIEF ZAMISH AND
GENERAL BABIA, AT 1030 HOURS, 9 MARCH:

2. GENERAL BABIA MENTIONED THAT HE HAD SENT COLONEL MAMPA AND
COLONEL ELUKI TO KILWEZI IN ORDER TO GET A FIRMER FIX ON THE
SITUATION. REPORTS COMING IN FROM THE SHABA ARE CONFUSED; PEOPLE
ARE FLEEING THE AREA. MAMPA AND ELUKI LEFT AT 0500 THIS MORNING.
AT 1100 HOURS BABIA RECEIVED REPORT FROM MAMPA STATING THAT
ENEMY FORCES HAD SEIZED A LINE FROM NORTH TO SOUTH AT KAPANGA,
SANDOA, DILILI AND KISENGE. SITUATION EXTREMELY SERIOUS ACCORD-
ING TO BABIA. BABIA HAS NO DOUBT THAT THE KATANGAN GENDARMES,
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LED BY GIZENGA, WERE THE ATTACKING FORCES SINCE THEY WERE LOCATED
IN THE DIAMOND REGION OF ANGOLA IMMEDIATELY TO THE WEST OF BORDER.
KAPANGA IS THE BIRTH PLACE OF TSHOMBE. THE AREA SEIZED THUS FAR
ENCOMPASSES APPROXIMATELY 100 KMS NORTH-SOUTH AND 300 KMS
EAST-WEST. STRONG TSHOMBE SUPPORT DURING THE KATANGAN SEPARATIONIST
MOVEMENT IN THIS REGION.

3. REPORTS COMING IN FROM THE FIELD ARE STILL IMPRECISE AND CONFUSED. BABIA DOES NOT KNOW THE STRENGTH OF THE ATTACKING FORCES, NOR ARMAMENT, AND HAS ASKED MAMPA TO ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE. HE HAD ONE REPORT THAT WHITE SOLDIERS WERE AMONG THE ATTACKING FORCES, AND HE ASSUMES, THEREFORE, THAT CUBANS ARE ASSISTING.

4. THE MILITARY REGION COMMANDER LAST NIGHT DISPATCHED APPROXIMATELY 200 GENDARMES TO THE KISENGE AREA. BABIA SAID HE NOTIFIED THE PRESIDENT. PRESIDENT SAID REINFORCE WITH 300 MORE MEN. BABIA OBJECTED AND RECOMMENDED THAT THEY DO NOT SEND NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL BUT SEND INTEGRAL UNITS. ACCORDINGLY, THIS MORNING BABIA INSTRUCTED MAMPA TO DISPATCH THE SECOND PARA BATTALION AND THE RECON BATTALION FROM LUBUMBASHI TO THE AREA.

5. BABIA RECEIVED WORD OF THE ATTACK LAST NIGHT. HE WAITED FOR THE SITUATION TO DEVELOP BECAUSE HE FELT IT MIGHT BE A) REPRISAL ATTACK, OR B) A DIVERSIONARY ATTACK WITH MAIN EFFORT IN BAS ZAIRE AREA. WITH THE LATEST INFORMATION COMING FROM MAMPA AND THE SIZE OF THE ENCLAVE ALREADY CAPTURED BY THE ATTACKING FORCES, HE NOW FEELS THIS IS THE MAIN EFFORT. HE FEELS THE ATTACK WAS

2-PRONGED; ONE ON A NORTH-SOUTH AXIS TOWARDS DILOLO AND KISENGE AND ONE FROM EAST-WEST TOWARDS KAPANGA AND SANDOA. BABIA FEELS THAT ENEMY MAY ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE TO ATTACK TO CAPTURE KOLWEZI. HE ESTIMATES IF KILWEZI FALLS, WHOLE SHABA REGION WILL FALL. HE IS WAITING FOR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION FROM MAMPA. HOWEVER, HE IS THINKING ABOUT DISPATCHING REINFORCEMENT BY C-130 FROM KINSHASA TO KAMINA AND USING KAMINA AS A STAGING AREA FOR AIRBORNE OPERATIONS INTO THE THREATENED AREA. HE MENTIONED THAT HIS

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PROBLEM IS LACK OF POL AND THAT HE WILL LOOK INTO IT. ARMED FORCES ON FULL ALERT.

6. HE MADE ARRANGEMENTS WHEREBY COLONEL BOPEYA WILL REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH ZAMISH FOR ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

7. WE HAVE BEEN IN RADIO CONTACT WITH AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI WHICH HAS RECEIVED ONLY FRAGMENTARY REPORTS ON SITUATION. IT REPORTS THAT FAZ TROOPS HAVE SURROUNDED PTT AND RADIO STATIONS AND THAT DILOLO WAS REPORTEDLY UNDER SEIGE YESTERDAY BY EITHER KATANGAN EX-GENDARMES OR CUBANS. CONSUL FURTHER REPORTS TEN TROOP TRUCKS DEPARTED LUBUMBASHI TOWARD BORDER LAST NIGHT.

8. COMMENT: ON THE SURFACE SITUATION LOOKS MORE SERIOUS THAN WE THOUGHT LAST NIGHT. INFORMATION CONTINUED TO BE FRAGMENTARY. SINCE WE HAVE NO OBSERVER ON THE SCENE, WE WILL HAVE TO RELY ON ZAIRIAN INFORMATION. DEPT. AND USUN SHOULD BE ALERT TO POSSIBILITY OF GOZ CALLING SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING OR AT VERY LEAST, URGING

IMMEDIATE SENDING OF INVESTIGATING MISSION. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN
NO LOCAL MEDIA REPORTING ON ABOVE INCURSIONS.
WALKER
UNQUOTE VANCE

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